Description of designs War Stamps 2002

~~40~~ 60c:

The war years on Aruba.

This design commemorates the attack by the German U-156 submarine on the Lago Oil refinery, one of the main allied fuel suppliers in the world.

The attack occurred on February 16, 1942, and is widely considered the first German attack on the western Hemisphere.

The German submarine crew fired cannon shots at docked ships and oil tanks, and also torpedoed several ships leaving the refinery harbor.

Grumman Avenger war planes stationed on the island took off to defend the refinery, but could not find the submarine on the dark sea.

~~70~~ 75c:

The war years on Aruba.

This design commemorates the torpedoing of the first of several ships on February 16, 1942 outside the Lago Oil refinery harbor by the German U-156 submarine.

The Pedernales exploded and burned fiercely all night, but did not sink. The next day she was pushed ashore by tug boats, and later sunk off-shore.

Many other torpedoes were fired, some missing ships and getting stuck on the beach. The one depicted here at Eagle Beach exploded the next day, killing several soldiers who were trying to dismantle it. Grumman Avenger planes continuously circled the island in the air on the lookout for enemy submarines.

150c:

The war years on Aruba.

This design commemorates the Aruban underground resistance fighter "Boy" Ecury, who fought in the Netherlands during the war years. He was captured by the Nazis and executed in November 1944, six months before the end of the war, at the age of twenty-two.

The drawing shows the white marble statue of Boy Ecury, placed in Oranjestad, Aruba. The design also shows members of the Aruban Militia ("Schutters"), who were on active duty during the war years on Aruba.

The design technique.

The designs are all done in black and white, recreating wartime photography and accentuating the fact that these images are fading memories from half a century ago. Each stamp, however, has a color band through the design. This is a space-time element, that serves to enliven the design, and that also points to the fact that the spaces depicted in the stamps are real geographical spaces, existing today in color, and in peace.